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Georgia Southern alumna conducts aquaculture research in Iceland

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018



Amber Monroe, a 2016 Georgia Southern University graduate who earned a B.S. in biology, settled into the dramatic landscapes of Iceland earlier this year to pursue graduate research and fulfill a childhood dream.

"As a kid, I was fascinated with Norse mythology and always wanted to come to Iceland," said Monroe. After graduation she went on to work as a high school teacher and took her first trip to the Land of Fire and Ice in April 2017. "I fell in love with it and knew it was where I wanted to be for this next chapter of my life."

The following year she applied to the master's program at Hólar University College in northern Iceland. Accepted into the program, Monroe began her graduate studies in May and is currently conducting research in the field of aquaculture. Her experiments are designed to better understand the growth and metabolism of lumpfish, economically important coldwater fish that help control sea lice (a parasitic crustacean) in aquaculture facilities where fish are raised.

"Lumpfish are actually a new species to me, and I hadn't heard of them until I started applying for universities in Iceland," she said. "Hólar has conducted research with lumpfish in the past, so the experiment I am working on is a continuation of that research."

Monroe says there aren't many differences between her new home campus and Georgia Southern's Statesboro campus, but one of the biggest is class size.

"The campus is much smaller than GSU's campus," she said. "But I like how at both universities you can get to know people on a personal level and everyone is willing to help each other."

Although Monroe is attempting to learn Icelandic, her program at Hólar is internationally diverse.

"It's fairly normal to be sitting at the lunch table and hear conversations in English, Icelandic, French, Dutch and German," said Monroe.

Attending a small college on a sparsely populated island means that life is "more laid back" than in the U.S., and Monroe finds that socializing with fellow students to stay active is important.

"One big difference is the importance of heated geothermal pools in Iceland," she said. "They are big meeting places where people go to hang out and relax, and we usually go a few times a week."

As a Georgia native Monroe says that the snow flurries aren't what's making her nervous about the approaching winter season.

"I think winter in Hólar will be a substantial change from Georgia," she noted. "I am less nervous about the snow and more so about the darkness. During the winter, we will only get a few hours of sunlight a day. However, my friends here have

offered advice on what to do during the winter. Social clubs that ski, knit or home brew are vital to getting through the winter.”

While Monroe’s time in Iceland will ultimately help her complete professional goals, she finds the cross-cultural experience to be just as important. “There are opportunities across the globe,” she noted. “Students should explore their options and see what is out there.”

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](https://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

Georgia Southern's October minimester provides flexible opportunities for students

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018



The fall semester is in full swing on Georgia Southern University's campuses. For those still looking for opportunities to get a jump on their education and career, they may still enroll for the 7-week October minimester available on the Armstrong and Liberty campuses.

During the October minimester, classes for a number of programs with flexible formats run from October 8 through December 6. Students can choose from a variety of core classes and work toward an associate degree, a bachelor's degree or a master's degree, online or on campus, on their own time or in a seated class.

Providing unprecedented access to Georgia Southern even after the semester has begun, Start Now events are designed to fast-track the admission process for the October minimester. Transfer, adult and non-traditional students who want to attend the University for the first time or re-enroll can sign up for the unique advantage of same-day admission decisions, access to Financial Aid counselors while waiting for their admission decision, and academic advising if admitted. Some may need to take a college placement exam prior to receiving a decision and can do so on-site that day.

Start Now events are offered at the University's Liberty Campus in Hinesville on Sept. 25, 2-7 p.m., and at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah on Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Individuals interested in the October Minimester and the Start Now events are encouraged to register [online](#). At least one day prior to the Start Now event, they should complete their Georgia Southern University application, which can be done online for free with registration to the event. Students should also obtain official copies of their transcripts from all schools attended prior to the event.

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